

Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU) International Summer Semester (ISS) 2019

Urban Sociology of Subcultural Neighborhoods in the City of Seoul

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1. Course Description:

This course is a virtual sociological tour of the variety of districts in Seoul City. The course explores the economic, political, and social subcultures of unique neighborhoods in the city. The historical origins, settlement processes, and current conditions of social structures of each of the subcultural neighborhoods will be reviewed. The urban ecological and ethnographic methods will be used in analyzing the interactions between people and organizational establishments in city life. The neighborhoods considered in the course would include the following districts of Seoul: 1) cosmetic surgery clinics in Gangnam district; 2) private cram schools in Daechidong; 3) ethnic enclaves in Itaewon; 4) popular music and indie band music clubs in Hongdae area; 5) apparel wholesale and retail shops at Dongdaemun market; 6) traditional herb medical supply at Kyungdong market; 7) a mega-size Protestant church, Yeouido Full Gospel Church; 8) Gwanghwamun and City Hall squares as mass demonstration sites; 9) a shanty town, Changshindong; 10) wedding halls in Gangnam District; 11) funeral homes at a university hospital; 12) art galleries in Pyeongchang-dong; 13) Karaoke rooms and screen golf studios; 14) civil service examination preparatory institutes at Noryangjin; 15) fish market at Noryangjin; and 16) weekend gatherings of Filipino immigrant workers at Hyehwadong. .

2. Reading Materials

Urban Sociology of Seoul City: A Collection of Journal Articles, Book Chapters, and Statistical Data Compiled by Eui Hang Shin. 2019.

3. Requirements

- 1) Students are expected to attend each and every class meeting.
- 2) Students should review the assigned reading materials before each class.
- 3) Students would form a three-person research team.
- 4) Each research team would make two presentations(5 minute-long each) based on actual field visits to any two of the 15 sites listed above.
- 5) Due Dates:
Paper Proposals: June 28, 2019
Presentation Dates: July 9th, and July 18th.

4. Determination of Final Grade

Presentations:	40%
Final Examination:	50%
Class Discussion/Attendance:	10%

5. Course Schedule

Date

Discussion Topics

- Thursday, 27 June :** Introduction to the Course
The Ethnic Enclaves and Multiculturalism in “Itaewon” Neighborhood
- Friday, 28 June:** A History of Seoul, Geopolitics, and Feng Shui
Mass Political Demonstrations at Gwanghwamun and City Hall Squares
- Monday, 1 July:** The Urban Economics, Apparel Wholesale and Retail Shops
in “Dongdaemun Market”
- Tuesday, 2 July:** Consumption Behaviors, Social Mobility, and Cosmetic Surgery Clinics
in “Gangnam” District
- Wednesday, 3 July:** The Culture of Educational Zeal and Cram Schools in “Daechidong”
- Thursday, 4 July:** Marriage Culture and Wedding Halls in Gangnam District
- Monday, 8 July:** The Compressed Economic Development, Social Polarization, and Residential
Sections for the Rich and the Poor: The Cases of “Seongbukdong” and
“Changshindong”
- Tuesday, 9 July:** The Student Presentations on Their Selected Seoul Neighborhoods
- Wednesday, 10 July:** Night Life Style, Popular Music and Indi Band Music Clubs in “Hongdae” Area
- Thursday, 11 July:** Religious Belief System and Mega-size Protestant Churches:
The Case of “Yeouido Full Gospel Church” in “Yeouido”
- Monday, 15 July:** Civil Service Examination Preparatory Institutes at Noryangjin
The Political Economy of Noryangjin Fish Market
- Tuesday, 16 July:** The Cultural Dimensions of Death and Funeral Services at Funeral Homes
- Wednesday, 17 July:** Karaoke Rooms and Screen Golf Studios
Art Galleries in Pyeong Chang-dong Area
- Thursday, 18 July:** The Student Presentations on Their Selected Seoul Neighborhoods
- Friday, 19 July:** Final Examination

6. References

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